

PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARIAT

Regulation of water under Vani Vilas Sagara.

READ—

Government Order No. R. 322-26—L. R. 13-27-15, dated the 13—14th July 1928, passing orders on the regulation of water-supply under the Vani Vilas Sagara.

2. Letter No. C. 1493—33-34, dated the 23rd November 1933, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, submitting a note prepared by him in consultation with the Chief Engineer, regarding irrigation under the Vani Vilas Sagara.

ORDER NO. 1261-1266—S., DATED BANGALORE,
THE 8TH JANUARY 1934.

The Revenue Commissioner and the Chief Engineer have made the following recommendations for the regulation of irrigation under the Vani Vilas Sagara after consulting the raiyats concerned and the local Revenue and P. W. Officers and considering the needs of the locality:—

- (1) That having regard to the fact that the Vani Vilas Sagara is now full, water may be supplied continuously for the cultivation of paddy during the ensuing summer;
- (2) that for the immediate future, summer cultivation of paddy may be permitted only in years when the level of water in the Vani Vilas Sagara is 120 feet on 1st November;
- (3) (a) that a water rate of Rs. 5 per acre may be charged when only intermittent supply is given throughout the year and Rs. 6-8-0 when water is given for summer cultivation of paddy, and (b) that, in view however of the prevailing economic depression, a water rate of Rs. 5-8-0 may be charged as a special case during the current year as was done last year;
- (4) that the concessions contemplated in para 4 of the Government Order, dated the 14th July 1928, in respect of cocoanut cultivation may be extended to arecanut cultivation also and that the raising of plantain and other minor intercrops might be permitted in lands planted with cocoanut and arecanut, whether such lands are near village sites or not;
- (5) that the concessions shown in respect of cocoanut cultivation may be extended to all orchard cultivation, e.g., orange, lime, pomegranate, etc., for the first four years subject, however, to the condition that the full rate of assessment should be levied on such lands from the fifth year onwards; and
- (6) that orchard or garden cultivation by means of lift irrigation may be encouraged in the lands on the upper margin of the canal wherever possible, a water rate of Rs. 2 per acre being levied on them.

A deputation of raiyats holding lands under the Vani Vilas Sagara subsequently waited upon the Dewan on the 23rd December 1933 and represented, among other things, that although water may be given for paddy cultivation during the current year as a special case, the continuance of this system in future might be discouraged, as the irrigation of the lands all the year round would tend to increase the incidence of malaria in the tract, cause damage to garden crops and affect seriously the storage in the lake during years of insufficient rainfall. They also requested that the assessment on lands might be fixed according to the nature of crops grown on the land and not at a uniform rate as at present.

After giving the matter careful consideration, Government are pleased to approve of the proposals made jointly by the Revenue Commissioner and the Chief Engineer, with the following modifications:—

- (1) As a rule, water will be issued for paddy cultivation, only during the monsoon period, from 1st June to end of November, the rate of assessment being Rs. 5-8-0 per acre;
- (2) But continuous irrigation will be allowed in summer in years when the level of the lake on 1st November preceding is not below 125 feet, an extra rate of Re. 1 per acre being levied in such years on lands in which Vaisaki paddy is raised. This extra rate will, however, be waived during the current year as a special case;
- (3) The raiyats should be encouraged to fully avail themselves of the concessions already given by the Government for growing perennial and garden crops, such as, sugar-cane, plantain, cocoanut, areca, etc., so as to reduce paddy cultivation to the minimum extent.

The Deputy Commissioner, Chitaldrug District, is requested to see that due publicity is given to this order so that the facilities now sanctioned to the raiyats may be availed of as widely as possible.

The Director of Agriculture is requested to arrange as early as possible for experiments being carried out with a view to determining the relative advantages and difficulties of paddy cultivation in the canal area in the monsoon and during summer.

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Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.